

CLAIMS

1. A computer system comprising:
a host domain including a host computer;
5 a storage domain, coupled to the host domain, the storage domain comprising
a plurality of primary storage devices;
a secondary storage device;
and a switched network coupled to the plurality of primary storage nodes and
to the secondary storage device.
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2. The computer system of claim 1, further comprising an additional primary storage
device, coupled directly to the secondary storage device.
3. The computer system of claim 1, wherein at least one of the primary storage devices is
15 a cached disk array.
4. The computer system of claim 1, wherein the secondary storage device includes a
plurality of ports coupled to the network, to send and receive data on the network in parallel.
- 20 5. The computer system of claim 4, wherein the secondary storage device comprises a
plurality of data movers, each coupled to one of the ports.
6. The computer system of claim 1, wherein the plurality of host computers is
heterogeneous.
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7. The computer system of claim 1, further comprising:
means for transferring a first logical object from one of the primary storage devices
directly to the secondary storage device over a first connection.
- 30 8. The computer system of claim 7, further comprising:
means for transferring a second logical object from one of the primary storage devices

directly to the secondary storage device over a second connection.

9. The computer system of claim 1, further comprising means for forming an abstract block set from a logical object stored in one of the primary storage devices.

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10. The computer system of claim 1, wherein the secondary storage device comprises a tape library unit.

11. A computer system comprising:

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a heterogeneous plurality of host computers;

a plurality of primary storage devices, each primary storage device being associated with at least one of the host computers; and

a secondary storage device, coupled to a plurality of the primary storage devices, the secondary storage device being configured to receive backup data from each of the host computers.

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12. The computer system of claim 11, wherein at least one of the primary storage devices is a cached disk array.

20 13. The computer system of claim 11, further comprising means for forming an abstract block set from a logical object stored in one of the primary storage devices.

14. The computer system of claim 11, wherein the secondary storage device includes a plurality of ports, to send and receive data in parallel.

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15. The computer system of claim 14, wherein the secondary storage device comprises a plurality of data movers, each coupled to one of the ports.

16. The computer system of claim 11, further comprising:

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means for transferring a first logical object from one of the primary storage devices directly to the secondary storage device over a first connection.

17. The computer system of claim 16, further comprising:
means for transferring a second logical object from one of the primary storage devices
directly to the secondary storage device over a second connection.
- 5 18. The computer system of claim 11, wherein the secondary storage device comprises a
tape library unit.
19. A method of transferring data from a primary storage element to a secondary storage
element, the method comprising steps of:
- 10 automatically establishing a first connection from a first one of the primary storage
elements to the secondary storage element to transfer a first logical object to the secondary
storage element; and
transferring the first logical object from the first one of the primary storage elements
directly to the secondary storage element over the first connection.
- 15 20. The method of claim 19, further comprising a step of
automatically establishing a second connection from a second one of the primary
storage elements to the secondary storage element to transfer a second logical object to the
secondary storage element; and
- 20 transferring the second logical object from the second one of the primary storage
elements directly to the secondary storage element over the second connection.
21. The method of claim 20, 24, 25, wherein the step of transferring the first logical object
and the step of transferring the second logical object are performed in parallel.
- 25 22. The method of claim 20, 24, 25, wherein the first logical object and the second logical
object were created by heterogeneous operating systems.
23. The method of claim 19, wherein the step of automatically establishing comprises a
30 step of establishing a path through a network.

24. The method of claim 19, wherein the secondary storage element comprises a tape library unit.

25. The method of claim 19, wherein:

5 the secondary storage element comprises a plurality of data movers; and
the step of automatically establishing comprises a step of selecting at least one of the data movers.